

SEWF22 Reflection Snapshot

Respondent Participation

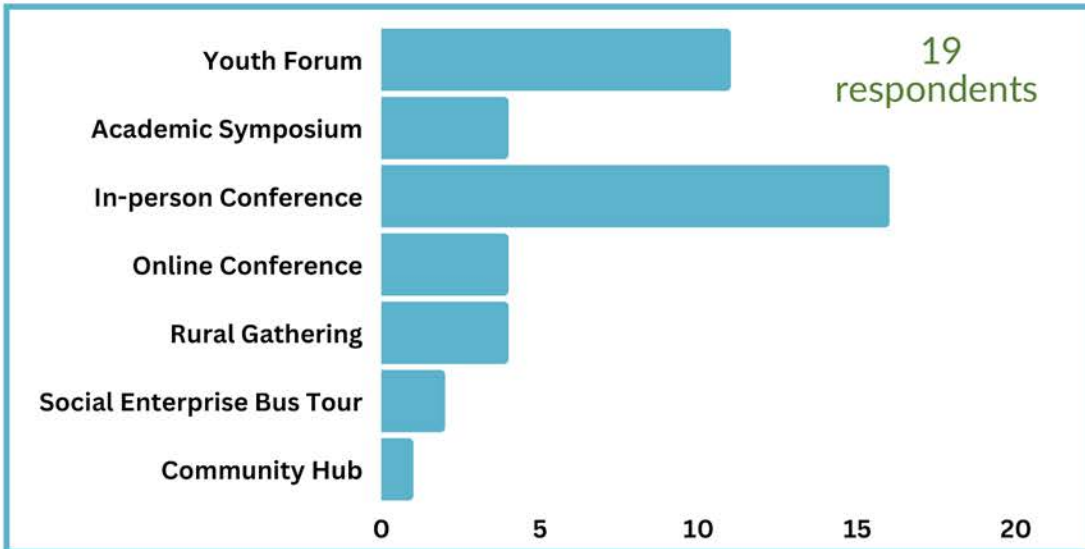
 **85%**

of respondents received support from SENVIC to enable participation



Reflections collated via survey and online debrief of three key questions:

1. Top three highlights of SEWF
2. SEWF would have been even better if...
3. What would you like to see in Victoria / from SENVIC to keep momentum going?



Highlights



"The conversations and connections outside of the room...The quality of connections I made in those few days could take months to build in online communities and would lack the spontaneity and serendipity that this conference afforded us...hugs...the energy of people wanting to do good!"



"Listening to the voice of indigenous leaders - challenging each and every one of us...[risks of colonisation all over again]...I was challenged and hopefully grew from these conversations"



Refreshing to see people doing phenomenal things on stage feeling comfortable to cry...authenticity and vulnerability... giving permission to celebrate the learnings from fails"



"Being reminded that we have a long way to go regarding power imbalances between funders and community led solutions... the importance of holding space and market sounding through social procurement rather than overengineering good intentions"



"Clothing the gap, Dylan Alcott, Kate Raworth, India Logan-Riley, Alex Toselli, Melbourne Renew project, GSECs presentation, opening sessions... lived experience- led sessions..the sheer size of the event - seeing 2700 people with united and passionate vision was incredible"



"Collective wisdom and gaining greater understanding of the global trends... realising the community building and community organising opportunities and impact that networking social enterprises can have"



"A general sense of **empowerment**. Totally kicked imposter syndrome's ass by seeing other young and youthful people doing incredible things and being on the same wavelength as them. I can never genuinely tell myself again that I don't do networking. I used to believe I was socially awkward and didn't do small talk and couldn't approach people, and yet I had people approaching me! I'm not sure what's next for me but I'm certainly more confident seeking it!"

~Emerging Leader Participant



SEWF would have been even better if...



"Accessible language....less academic and less blaze words....more about the how and the why rather than the what"



"Sessions for people at different stages of their social enterprise journey"



"Micro-networking spaces...opportunities for introductions... speaker follow ups or meet & greets"



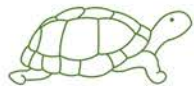
"A SENVIC podcast or video conversation we could have contributed to"



"Better integration of youth voice across the conference...more diversity of global speakers and participation at rural visit...more lived experience and variation in panel composition...think tank/shark tank sessions...A SENVIC ELP run workshop!"



"Had presentations, workshops or discussions related to critical reflection and unearthing the challenges facing the sector... at times it felt like it was solely focused on celebrating and patting ourselves on the back...less curation of questions to allow for authentic space and uncomfortable conversations...address the tough questions"



"More space and time to absorb and take it all in...been slower... too much packed into too few days and not enough time to digest"

How might SENVIC keep the momentum moving forward in Victoria?



"More space for Indigenous leadership"



"I'd love a podcast series, or small round tables, or standing forums to know i'm on the right track.. to capture emerging themes from SENVIC membership...to allow for deep dives and uncomfortable conversations...1:1 vulnerable interviews with sector leaders"



"Mentoring and encouragement...a learning hub where we can walk in with our problems and have a team help solve them or implement them"



"Share practical outcomes as a result of Social Enterprises World Forum...Newsletter, increased conversations and advocacy for social enterprises...there's nothing wrong with a talk fest but we need to demonstrate tangible action"



"Joining up of systems across an industry e.g. food systems, construction systems, manufacturing systems...and improve opportunities for collaborative tendering /common tendering...more but selective...tailored to industry and/or causes "



"More networking events to keep the authentic conversations and connections going followed by opportunity for downtime, like the after party or social events at Rural Gathering...maybe we could rotate face-to-face shared dinners across Victoria...knowing that some would be small...maybe they could be curated to be compelling enough for some to travel for?"



Board Considerations

1. Keeping momentum going with the recognition that we are uniquely placed to hold space and create courageous conversations to move beyond a celebratory movement and ask the hard questions
2. Recognise that SEWF reflections will be emergent due the the nature of current pace and overwhelm of the ecosystem
3. Identify what are our value levers/indicators of success regarding SEWF participation? How should that guide future decision making?





A SENVIC Staff Critical Reflection

"There was so much happening behind the scenes at SEWF22. We all had a role to play as a collective staff profile. Looking back I am proud of how our team navigated the week, and was proud to represent SENVIC. Our local leads and ELP crew were also proud to share our SENVIC brand - often asking if they could wear my t-shirt or hold my bag for photos! Such desire to be visibly connected (which was great when I needed a moment of being less visible to recharge). There were pockets of togetherness and pockets of asynchronous team work. There's no doubt it was full on, and sometimes it felt overwhelming.

We each had roles in terms of logistics, learning, strategic relationship building/strengthening, representation, as well as hosting/nurturing our community - whether that be the ELP dinner with the whole SENVIC team, the after party, the breakfast meetings with local leads, government reps and other stakeholders, the collegial chats with other network activators, the state gatherings or the grassroots chats/deep listening with emerging social entrepreneurs or potential SENVIC members - it was constant, purposeful connection.

I was also very grateful for the efforts made to better connect as an internal team - those moments were fleeting, but they were there and critical for strengthening our team cohesion as a fast moving, remote work group - Thank you Nick, Danielle and Sakshi.

There is much for us to think about 'what can we do better next time' - and there is absolutely a sense of 'we need to slow down'. We need to recover from the enormity of the SEWF period and come together to focus on our team planning to activate the new SENVIC strategic plan in consideration of our internal team culture, our personal learnings, our membership lived experience and the broader context within which we operate.

I loved that we delivered high level strategic engagement in parallel with grassroots connections and community nurturing across the two weeks - it stays true to SENVIC values, was only possible with full team participation and I am confident our deep listening and ability to intersect membership voice with SENVIC strategy places us strongly for the year ahead."

~ Carmel Riley, SENVIC Regional Manager



A SENVIC Staff Critical Reflection

I left SEWF with a sense of belonging I didn't realise I was craving in the social enterprise sector. As Mikhara Ramsing in a recent RealTalk summarised so eloquently, the in-person interactions reminded me of 'how much more we have in common than we do apart'. The physical coming together of the global social enterprise sector created opportunities for serendipitous encounters for authentic sharing of challenges, learnings, reflections, asking the the tough questions and celebrating the social enterprise sector's impact. Whether this was intentional or unintentional, it was a delight to observe 'networks' form through self-organised dinners, early morning coffee catchups before SEWF and debrief meetups after SEWF. This organic creation of networks, reinforced the existing need for more opportunities for social enterprise practitioners to come together. It inspired me to reflect upon why SENVIC exists, why our work around creating spaces for authentic connections, developing meaningful support and influencing policy for a thriving sector is important in Victoria, nationally and globally.

This year, SENVIC ran its first Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) to support young social entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs through which we also provided bursary support to each participant to attend SEWF. This was everyone's first SEWF experience, and for many, this was their first exposure to the social enterprise sector beyond Victoria. SEWF might be over for this year, but the impact it's left on the SENVIC team and ELP participants in particular, is still lingering through our weekly reflections on our learnings, how we are trying to implement these learnings into our work and lives, and how much we miss being around the energy of like-minded people. There is an evident ripple effect we can't quantify but have witnessed through the individual and collective conversations around how we might do better since SEWF.

I'm grateful to have shared my first SEWF with the SENVIC family during that week - Danielle, Carmel, Nick, SENVIC members present and the ELP participants. The feeling of community I felt through the sharing of notes from sessions we couldn't make, facilitating introductions with great people and supporting the space for rest for my introverted self, is a feeling I hope we can create for every social practitioner in the sector.

While SEWF was jam-packed with many moments of excitement and elatedness, there were also many moments of overwhelm and doubt. Are we listening enough? Are we actioning enough? Are we doing enough? A month later, I am still reflecting on these questions. What I know for sure post SEWF is that we as a team are all on the same page on wanting to make sure we intentionally listen more and have integrity in our actions to align with our values in everything we do. What we have achieved so far, is just the beginning.

~Sakshi Thakur, SENVIC Metropolitan Manager

